

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 24th April 2016

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Citizens

Introduction: This talk explored the 'beatitudes' as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy about God's coming kingdom and descriptions of the citizens of that Kingdom.

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Read: Matthew 5:1-12

Reflect:

- In the talk David drew connections between Isaiah 61 and the Beatitudes. It is as though Jesus is making it clear that the promises made through Isaiah are about to come true through Jesus. See Luke 4:16-21 for another account of Jesus making this parallel.
 - In what ways does understanding Jesus as the fulfillment of God's ancient promises *inform* our faith in him, and in what ways does it *encourage* our faith in him?
- The Beatitudes offer a description of the life of Jesus - the ultimate One who is blessed by God. Can you think of examples from Jesus' life where he embodies one or more of the Beatitudes. (If you're stuck, how about these: Luke 3:49; Matthew 21:5; Matthew 21:12,13; John 8:1-11; John 21:17?).
- Try to take in the whole list of Beatitudes and discuss what it would be like to live in a community that was marked by these attitudes.
- Now read Luke's 'Six Woes' (Luke 11:37-54).
 - In what ways are the 'woes' the flipside of the 'beatitudes'?
 - Discuss what it would be like to live in a community defined by the 'woes'?!
- Discuss David's three main headings and ask people to say which they find most personally challenging in terms of their own discipleship right now. Reminder:
 - (1) Longing for God's Kingdom - v3,4
 - (2) Living Out God's Kingdom - v6-9
 - (3) Losing All for God's Kingdom - v10-12
- Leave time to pray for one another in the light of this last bit of sharing. - It could also be good to leave time to pray for Christians for whom vs 10-12 are a daily reality (for example see <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/pray/>)

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond